



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Rhodesia

Most African leaders now seem to be awaiting the results of their pressures on Britain to take stronger action against Rhodesia. At the same time, there seems to be considerable confusion among the Africans as to what their next move should be.

In addition to the seven states which have broken relations with London, the Ethiopian Government--according to the foreign minister--will do so "imminently." It is still doubtful that the Ethiopians will make such a move in the absence of the Emperor, who is off visiting the Malagasy Republic.

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2. Dominican Republic

Gangs of young toughs, reminiscent of those prominent in the uprising last April, roamed a limited section of Santo Domingo this morning, but the situation seems to be more nearly under control this afternoon.

The agitation today evidently had little to do with the Christmas bonus issue, which pro-Communists exploited to spark the demonstrations yesterday. Leftist elements are dissociating themselves from the violence and are accusing rightists of whipping it up. There have been no disturbances in the rest of the country.

The strike situation is mixed. As of last night, Garcia Godoy was still hopeful that government workers would desert their leftist leaders and be back on the job by the end of this week. This appears overly optimistic.

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3. Venezuela

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4. Cuba

[redacted] the Cubans are attaching great importance to the forthcoming "Tri-continent Conference." The conference will bring Communist and Communist-inclined delegates, especially from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, to the Cuban capital the first week in January.

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[redacted] Cubans believe that this meeting will build up Castro's image and demonstrate to Washington that his regime is not isolated from the rest of the world.

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5. Peru

The government has scored another success in combating the country's endemic leftist guerrilla problem. Earlier this week police killed the leader, Guillermo Lobaton, and wounded the second in command of the only unit of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left still actively fighting. This should spell the end of serious guerrilla activity in Peru for some months at least.

6. Indonesia

Our embassy in Djakarta is now receiving a variety of reports that more "big changes" will take place in Indonesia immediately after the first of the year.

There are now a number of indications that Sukarno may be considering going abroad in mid-January. It is still too early to tell, however, whether these indications reflect his actual intentions or are merely being read this way by others as a result of the increasingly obvious shift of power to the army.

The impression that the army controls Sukarno is being assiduously fostered by General Suharto, the army commander.

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7. Soviet Union

Cosmos 100, the satellite launched yesterday, may be one of a series of Soviet attempts to develop a new satellite system.

Two similar satellites have been orbited before, one in August 1964 and another last February. Like Cosmos 100, these were placed in relatively high orbits, suitable for accumulating weather data, collecting electronics intelligence, or making solar observations.

Of these possibilities, a weather mission seems the most likely. Soviet officials have said they hoped to begin exchanging weather information with the US before the end of this year.

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8. Pakistan

Press accounts of cyclone damage in East Pakistan appear at this point to be somewhat overdrawn.

The damage to the mainland is similar to that caused by a cyclone last May. In that disaster, 13,000 lost their lives, but the population showed great resiliency and rebuilt quickly. The main problem is in the offshore islands, where large numbers of fishermen presumably were caught while at work.

The East Pakistani government has not yet asked formally for relief help. The US Consulate General in Dacca reports that there are large stocks of relief food and clothing in the area. The consulate also observes no great sense of urgency among the local authorities.

9. Communist China

[redacted] there was another riot this fall in Kuldja, scene of earlier disturbances.

The latest incident reportedly arose when Chinese police refused to let a number of Muslims join relatives who had gone to the Soviet Union during the mass exodus of 1962. Other [redacted]

[redacted] small-scale riots in this area.

Outbursts of active opposition like this are rare. In this case, they owe more to traditional animosity between the Chinese and Turki minorities of Sinkiang than to difficulties between the Communist rulers in Peking and the populace.

There are, however, signs that the central authorities are unable to whip up the same enthusiasm for their causes as in earlier years and that this is worrisome to Mao Tse-tung and his top advisers. Today's Annex discusses the causes of this concern.

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10. Vietnam

According to a preliminary translation of a North Vietnamese message, no major damage was done to the Uong Bi power plant in Wednesday's strike. The field analysis of the message indicates that the nearest bomb fell almost 500 feet from the plant. Power was knocked out but little damage was done to the plant itself.

As yet, no post-strike photography is available by which to judge the accuracy of this assessment. The pilots involved in the strike were not able to make detailed visual observations because of smoke, dust, and clouds in the target area.

ANNEX

Popular Attitudes in Communist China

For years now Mao Tse-tung's Communists have relied on recurrent political indoctrination drives to rouse the Chinese people to greater efforts and renew their identification with the regime. These campaigns are nationwide and all inclusive. They frequently make use of a catchy Chinese phrase such as "three-anti," "four-good," "100 flowers." The phrase chosen becomes the focus of the sloganeers and editorialists who din it into the masses as things they must or must not do. Some times a hero is discovered worthy of emulation by all. One such hero was Lei Feng, the so-called "rustproof screw" of the revolutionary machinery, who was in time displaced by an "all-purpose screw" who was also a "spiritual atom bomb."

Despite this, these campaigns are deadly serious matters. During one, every Chinese except the very young, the aged, or the infirm must attend two, three, or four meetings a week at his commune, office, factory, or neighborhood association. Each lasts two or three hours. As the drive progresses, the frequency and duration of the sessions increase. At the climax, these may turn into day-long struggle and punishment orgies.

By now, however, there is little doubt that these techniques of applied politics are bringing Peking diminishing returns. The drives have in fact become too pervasive and constant a part of Chinese life. Many Chinese have learned through tedious repetition how to mouth the current catechism correctly and even how to criticize themselves and others in such a way as not to bring down the party's wrath.

Another factor has contributed to a growth of political apathy in China. In the first decade the Communists did seem to be moving the nation ahead. But the follies of the great leap forward and the serious economic stagnation which followed showed that Mao was indeed fallible despite all efforts to shift the blame elsewhere.

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The leaders apparently realize these attitudes exist. Mao has complained to visitors about the "revisionist" attitudes shown by Chinese peasants and youth. He also charges that "the intellectuals are against us." The Peking authorities, fearing that they are no longer getting the measure of support they once had, are worried that when they are gone their revolution will wither.

All of this does not mean that the Mao regime is losing out right now. The leadership still seems to have a tight grasp on the effective levers of power and can still command compliance all around even if it cannot exhort the masses to enthusiasm.

This will continue to be the case so long as the regime has the backing of the armed forces. The armed forces are not immune to the stresses and trials of the common lot, but personnel are carefully selected with an eye to stability and to political reliability. To ensure that they remain so, loyal party people are interlaced all the way through the chain of command. In addition, the armed services remain a clearly favored element of society. Overall, morale and discipline must be rated good.

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